

October 2016 - Bill Strickland

Congratulations and thank you to Bill Strickland for being our Volunteer of the Month for October! Bill has been serving as an Atlanta Track Club volunteer since 1990! He is our course director for the PNC Atlanta 10 Miler & 5K and the Thanksgiving Day Half Marathon & 5K. This year will mark Bill's 27th year working Thanksgiving Day with us! Bill also serves as finish area security coordinator for the AJC Peachtree Road Race, in addition to volunteering at many of our other events. (Bill Strickland is below on the left, with fellow Peachtree Crew Chief Bob DeLorme.)

1. Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? If so, what event was it and what brought you back again?

The first time I volunteered with Atlanta Track Club was working the Atlanta Marathon and Half Marathon when the course started in Clarkston and finished at the bathhouse in Piedmont Park. I pulled tags from the numbers of the runners in the finish chute. My crew chief was (current Atlanta Track Club staff member) Elizabeth Unislawski, who made working that area fun. I enjoyed seeing the runners finish the race.



2. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event?

I have two favorite races. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Peachtree Junior would be my first. I love seeing the little children running. But, what makes me really laugh to myself is seeing two little girls just walking hand in hand just taking their time. The second race was last year when we started the Wingfoot XC Classic in Cartersville. Seeing all those runners running across the open field was fun to see.

3. What is one of your best memories from volunteering at any race?

My best memory volunteering with Atlanta Track Club is working the AJC Peachtree Road Race. I just love seeing all the runners in the Meadow. Piedmont Park is full of runners that have just completed the Peachtree. It makes my 4th of July.

4. What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?

My favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club is seeing old friends year after year and making new ones. I guess giving my time volunteering is just in my blood.

5. Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment?

My favorite volunteering assignment is giving out the medals for the marathon. Seeing those people who just have run 26.2 and are thrilled to receive their medal. You can see in their eyes the accomplishment of finishing a marathon.

6. Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club?

I have volunteered for the Olympics, the Super Bowl, Final Four, other road races, and Rotary International. I love helping put on events. I get a feeling of being a part of the events. I have also been in Rotary International for 21 years. I was District Governor 2014-2015 of District 6910. District 6910 is from Rome to Augusta and North Georgia. I had 73 Clubs and 3100 Rotarians. I had to visit every club. I started the second week of July and finished the week of Thanksgiving doing my club visits. I was the top cheerleader and also the CEO.

7. Tell us something interesting about yourself – an interesting fact or story that will help us get to know you...

I love to travel. In the last few years, I have been to Trinidad; Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic; Lisbon, Portugal; Sydney, Australia; Brazil; Seoul, South Korea; and China. Where to next? India and Honduras!